

03500.017754.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
MASAO KATO, et al. ) Examiner: S. Meier  
Application No.: 10/725,397 ) Group Art Unit: 2853  
Filed: December 3, 2003 )  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING )  
APPARATUS AND IMAGE )  
PROCESSING METHOD ) September 1, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the non-U.S. patent documents is enclosed.

- 1) U.S. Patent No. 6,542,642
- 2) U.S. Patent No. 6,148,031
- 3) U.S. Patent No. 5,289,293
- 4) U.S. Patent No. 5,351,137
- 5) U.S. Patent No. 6,665,446
- 6) U.S. Patent No. 5,949,965
- 7) U.S. Patent No. 5,973,803
- 8) U.S. Patent No. 5,661,570
- 9) U.S. Patent No. 6,188,492
- 10) U.S. Patent No. 6,738,160
- 11) U.S. Publication No. 2003/0174345
- 12) U.S. Publication No. 2003/0174352

- 13) U.S. Publication No. 2002/0097456
- 14) Japan 10-200724
- 15) Japan 2002-51212
- 16) Japan 8-46784
- 17) Japan 8-307680
- 18) Japan 8-279920
- 19) Japan 11-10918
- 20) Japan 9-139841
- 21) Japan 2002-171407

22) R. Floyd et al., "An Adaptive Algorithm for Spatial Grayscale", SID Symposium Digest of Paper, pp. 36-37, (1975).

It is noted that document 9 is a U.S. counterpart for document 14, document 8 is a U.S. counterpart for document 16, document 7 is a U.S. counterpart for document 18, document 6 is a U.S. counterpart for document 19, and document 13 is a U.S. counterpart for document 21. The concise explanation of relevance for each of documents 14, 16, 18, 19 and 21 is believed to be satisfied by the U.S. counterparts.

English-language abstracts for each of documents 15, 17 and 20 have been located and are enclosed for the Examiner's consideration. The concise explanation of relevance for each of these non-English language documents is believed to be satisfied by the English language abstracts. See MPEP § 609.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449 and returning the initialed form to Applicant with the next communication.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,  
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to  
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">           SEP 02 2004            PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE         </div>				ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>03500.017754.</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/725,397</b>	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT <b>MASAO KATO, et al.</b>			
				FILING DATE <b>December 3, 2003</b>		GROUP <b>N/Y/A</b>	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6,542,642	04/01/03	Takizawa et al.	382	236	
		6,148,031	11/14/00	Kato	375	240.13	
		5,289,293	02/22/94	Kato et al.	358	457	
		5,351,137	09/27/94	Kato et al.	358	457	
		6,665,446	12/16/03	Kato	382	251	
		5,949,965	09/07/99	Gondek	395	109	
		5,973,803	10/26/99	Cheung et al.	358	534	
		5,661,570	08/26/97	Nomura	358	456	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	JP	10-20074	07/31/98	Japan			Abstract
	JP	2002-51212	02/15/02	Japan			Abstract
	JP	8-46784	02/16/96	Japan			Abstract
	JP	8-307680	11/22/96	Japan			Abstract
	JP	8-279920	10/22/96	Japan			Abstract
	JP	11-10918	01/19/99	Japan			Abstract
	JP	9-139841	05/27/97	Japan			Abstract
	JP	2002-171407	06/14/02	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
		R. Floyd et al., "An Adaptive Algorithm for Spatial Grayscale", SID Symposium Digest of Paper, pp. 36-37, (1975).					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>03500.017754.</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/725,397</b>	
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6,188,492	02/13/01	Bungo et al.	358	486	
		6,738,160	05/18/04	Kato et al.	358	1.9	
		2003/0174345	09/18/03	Kato et al.	358	1.2	
		2003/0174352	09/18/03	Yamada et al.	358	1.9	
		2002/0097456	07/25/02	Yamada et al.	358	536	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
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